

Store  
HA 09248

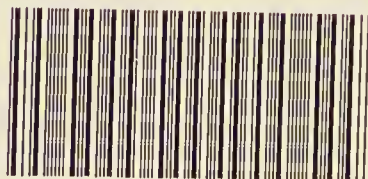
Glasgow  
University Library



541-1954


~~524 c 31~~

Store  
HA 09248



30114014153301





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2015

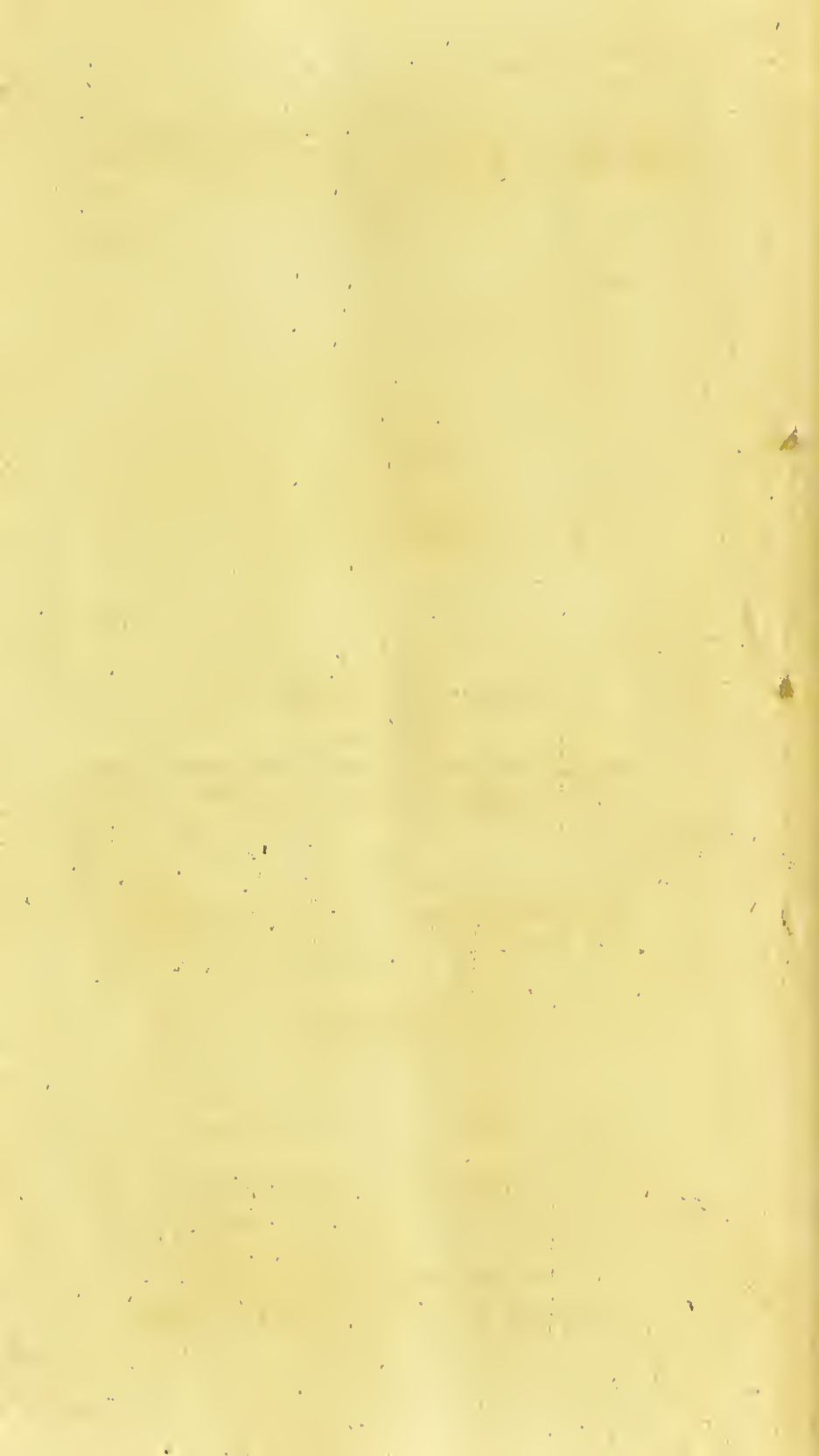
<https://archive.org/details/b21469416>

**GARNETT**

ON

**MOFFAT WELLS.**

1820.



# OBSERVATIONS

ON

## MOFFAT,

AND ITS

## MINERAL WATERS.

---

By T. GARNETT, M.D.

N.R.I.A.

*Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry in the  
Royal Institution of Great Britain.*

---

WITH NOTES AND ADDITIONS, BY THE EDITOR.

---

LONDON, PRINTED 1800.

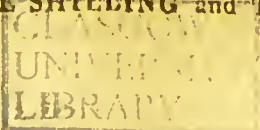
EDINBURGH, REPRINTED 1820,

By JOHN ORPHOOT, Blackfriars Wynd.

---

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR.

Price ONE SHILLING and THREE PENCE.



ORIENTAL

LIBRARY

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF

OXFORD

CLARENDON  
UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY

## *PREFACE.*

---

**D**R GARNETT resided with his family at Moffat, for some months in the year 1797, when an acquaintance commenced between him and me, which was mutually agreeable and advantageous, till it was terminated by his lamented and premature death. He was, at that time, Lecturer on Natural Philosophy and Chemistry in the respectable Institution of the late Professor Anderson at Glasgow; and, such was his opinion of the air of this place, that he intended to repair an old but substantial house in the neighbourhood, as a place of residence for his family, and of occasional retirement for himself, during the intervals of his professional duties at Glasgow. The late Dr Johnston, whom he largely quotes, was a native of Moffat, and, except some time spent abroad, had passed his life here. But, notwithstanding these apparent causes of partiality, not a trace of empiricism

ricism will be found in the following pages, either from Dr. Garnett or Dr Johnston. For both had received a regular education at Edinburgh\*; and Dr Garnett used to mention it as the highest honour and happiness of his life, that he had been the pupil of the distinguished masters of that university. Like every other real philosopher, Garnett abhorred empiricism; but, being an honest, unsuspecting man, and a laborious student, he was not sufficiently aware of the insidious arts† of empirics. In a fatal hour he was allured from his settlement at Glasgow, by plausible professions, and artful letters.; not to mention the possible influence of that very pompous name, “The Royal Institution of Great Britain.” There he became lecturer, in 1799 or 1800, on the same subjects which he had taught in Glasgow. But all the fine professions with which he had been amused,

soon

---

\* Except in classics and pure mathematics, the last of which Dr. Garnett studied under that excellent mathematician Mr Dawson of Sedberg, in Yorkshire. Thus what some men improperly call science, was regarded by Garnett only as the application, more or less exact, of demonstrable truth to natural bodies and their laws;—formed and established as these have evidently been, by the will of Him who hath created and disposed all things by weight and measure.

† Some of those arts are well exposed by Peter Pindar, in his Epistle to Benjamin Count Rumford; and examples are given in the notes.

soon ended in that vexation and disappointment, which, if he had better known the world and his seducer, he would certainly have expected from any intercourse with "the man of smoke."

There were several causes of disagreement between him and the person alluded to. But the principal one was, that Dr. Garnett was unwilling to read over to *him* forsooth (who was understood to be ignorant of mathematics, and of natural or mechanical philosophy) the whole of the lectures he intended to deliver. The only motive which candour itself could assign for this extraordinary demand, was, that he might derive, from the works of another, that credit which he was incapable of deserving himself. Dr. Garnett told him that those lectures had been, and continued to be the labour of his life; and had been several times delivered with success at Liverpool and Manchester, and lastly at Glasgow, where some gentlemen of the university had heard and approved of them. This modest explanation, which was meant as an apology, did not avail. The gentleman thought proper to be so highly offended, that this refusal became the foundation of our author's ruin. He never had another hour's peace at the Royal Institution. His delivery betrayed the agitation of his feelings. He was indeed too modest for a shining orator, even if his subjects had admitted of oratory ;  
but

but his stile was good, and his illustrations, to those who could not be expected to understand his demonstrations, apt and luminous. All this was nothing to his unmerciful persecutor, who continued to vex and harrass him, till he resolved to give up his situation. This step he accordingly took, much against the advice of his friends, who urged, that the real character and views of his adversary; could not long be concealed from the managing committee, who would ultimately do him justice. For it is but right to observe, that our author found no fault with any of the gentlemen concerned but one; only complaining that *he* had been allowed to gain such an ascendancy as to enable him to rule, or at least to lead all the rest. And thus it too often happens, that societies, formed for the best purposes, and of the best men, are, in effect, governed by one or a few busy, plausible, and designing individuals; who scruple not to oppress, or even to ruin those who, perhaps for a scanty bit of bread, have the misfortune to act under them; especially if they should dare to think differently, on any subject, from their tyrannical dictators.

The Doctor, on retiring from the Royal Institution, took a roomy and handsome house in Marlborough Street, Oxford Road, where he fitted up a very commodious lecture-room; but lived not long enough to make much use of it. Having become physician

sician to the Mary-la-bonne Dispensary, at a time when a dangerous fever raged among the patients, he was too forgetful of himself, in his efforts to be useful to them, and caught the infection which, in a few days, brought him to his grave, in July 1802; aged, I should suppose, somewhat under 40 years. His wife had died in Glasgow; but he left several orphans to deplore his loss.

Thus much I have taken the liberty to premise to this second edition of my late friend's little tract; partly as an act of justice to the memory of the very deserving author, and partly to satisfy the reader, that the following pages are not polluted with a particle of quackery.

I have only to add, that this tract originally formed a part of his Tour in Scotland; to which part a title being prefixed, a number of copies were taken off while the press was standing, and published as a separate pamphlet. Hence the large quarto form of the first edition, a form so unsuitable to little tracts. The separate publication of so small a portion of the original work, was probably suggested by me; though I do not distinctly remember it. But I was much with him in London, at the time, and among other little helps, made the index to the work in question, which his different and laborious employments, prevented him from making himself.

*Editor.*

*\* \* \* Poor persons from other places, resorting to Moffat, in order to use the Sulphureous Waters, will receive from the Minister and Kirk-Session, their share of that small relief which may be expected from the clear profits on the sale of this pamphlet,—on producing a certificate from any Physician or Surgeon, constantly or occasionally residing in Moffat, stating that the applicant is receiving, or is likely to receive, benefit from the waters; and another certificate from the Minister of the said applicant's own parish, representing him (or her) as a proper object of charity.*

---

It is hoped that the Editor's unavoidable distance from the press, will be admitted as an apology for any errors which may escape the correction of the printer.

# OBSERVATIONS

ON

## MOFFAT,

AND ITS

### MINERAL WATERS.



THE village of Moffat is situated on a rising ground at the head of a plain or valley, extending more than twenty miles along the banks of the Annan; it is encompassed on the east, north, and west, by hills of different heights (*a*). The principal and indeed the only street is very spacious. There are two inns, and some very good lodging houses, which are let to invalids who resort to this place during the summer. The church is a handsome building, surrounded by trees which produce a good effect. Indeed, the view of this village is by no means unpicturesque. The annexed view

---

(*a*) Moffat may be considered as situated in a triangle formed by lines joining Edinburgh, Glasgow and Carlisle; being 51 miles from Edinburgh, 55 from Glasgow, and 46 from Carlisle.—One or two of the hills mentioned in the text are clothed with natural grass; some are cultivated and planted with forest trees to their summits, and others variegated with rocks, grass, and short heather, presenting a dry, healthful surface, and affording good pasture for sheep and a few goats, some of which last are kept to give milk to such invalids as require it.—The hill next to Moffat was probably the first in Great Britain whose height was ascertained by means of the barometer. This admeasurement was performed, in the 17th century, by Professor Sinclair of Glasgow, one of the earliest and keenest experimenters with the air-pump, barometer, diving-bell, and other pneumatic instruments. See the *Collegium Curiosum*, by the German mathematician Sturm, printed in 4to. at Altorf in 1680, as I think; for I have not the book at hand.

Editor.

view (*b*.) is taken from the Dumfries road, at the distance of about a mile from Moffat. The number of inhabitants is something more than a thousand, [now, in 1820, about fifteen hundred.] Lord Hopefoun has a house here, in which he occasionally resides.

Moffat has been long celebrated for its mineral waters, and on this account, numbers of invalids from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, and various parts of Scotland, [and of England and Ireland,] resort to it every year; and though in winter a residence here would be very dull and dreary, in summer the village is all life and bustle. The two inns accommodate a considerable number, and there are several private lodging houses in which families can be accommodated.

The climate of Moffat is said to be remarkably healthy, and the air so extremely pure, as to occasion sneezing and other marks of superoxygenation in persons not accustomed to it, particularly if they have lived for some time in a large town or confined situation: its effects are particularly exhilarating and bracing, as I have myself experienced; and though the showers of rain are frequent and sometimes heavy, as might be expected in a mountainous country, yet a moist or foggy atmosphere is seldom seen. Every opening of the clouds discovers a sky of a beautiful azure, which, in a clear day, assumes a distinctness and brightness that might vie with an Italian sky. These circumstances, with exercise, contribute perhaps as much as the waters, to restore the exhausted and debilitated constitution.

THE

---

(*b*) The learned and worthy author gave me the plate from which the aquatint view here mentt, was worked off. It is of course considerably worn, and so foul as not to admit of being cleaned without obliterating the delicate traces peculiar to that mode of engraving; not to mention that the expense would not suit this cheap re-print. The author, has also embellished his tract with a view of the Beld Craig, or Bald Rock.

Editor.

THE mineral waters are of two kinds, *sulphureous* and *chalybeate*: the first has long been distinguished by the name of Moffat Well, and is situated about a mile and a half from the village. A good carriage road has been made to it, and there is a room and stables for the accommodation of the company while drinking the water.

THE spring issues out of a rock, at the distance of two or three yards only from a little rivulet: a few yards above it is a bog, from whence it probably derives its sulphureous impregnation. The well is covered over with a stone building, inclosing a pump: on one of the stones of this building is the following inscription:

*Æque pauperibus prodest,  
Locupletibus aque (c,)*

And

---

(c) That is “equally beneficial to the poor and the rich.” This is too poetical for a sober statement of the fact; but, no doubt, would be literally true, if the rich could be persuaded to adopt the temperate regimen to which the poor are necessarily confined, and to continue the use of the water for a sufficient length of time. But this degree of self-denial is not, in general, to be expected from those who have the means of indulgence; and the consequence is, that few opulent patients comparatively, derive from the sulphureous water of Moffat, that benefit which it is well known to produce among their inferiors in fortune. And, with all the respect that is justly due to conscientious and disinterested physicians, we may venture to observe, that those of a different character are not over fond of recommending so *cheap* a remedy as Moffat-well water. The reason will be obvious enough to men who know the world; and may be briefly and forcibly expressed in the words of a gentleman who had retired from a long and successful practice as a physician in Moffat. I have heard him say in plain terms, that certain of the faculty in the great towns, some of whom he named, “*could never bear to let their wealthy patients go out of their sight.*”

In confirmation of these remarks, I shall mention an instance of the effects of the sulphureous water on a rich and a poor patient respectively. Both were severely afflicted with scrophula, and both fell very much under my own observation.

In the year 1768, the son of an opulent English gentleman was left at Moffat, in his seventh or eighth year, under the care of a steady  
and

And on a stone about three yards from the building the following:

*Infirmary,*

and honest, but ignorant woman, who was exceedingly attentive to him: indeed she was foolishly fond of the boy, and, having been a cook in the family in her earlier years, she had a notion, that the better he lived, in her sense of the word, the better it would be for him. She therefore not only dressed for him a variety of gross, high-seasoned dishes, but plied him between meals with confections, or "coomfits," (comfits) as she called them; so that the poor boy, who was too lame to take much exercise, could never be said, in the phrase of the place, to "find the ground of his stomach." In vain did the Doctor recommend a simpler diet: she minded her cookery books more than the Doctor's opinion. When any discreet matron ventured to drop a hint (as one such sometimes did to my knowledge) about a bellyful of the plain, wholesome food which she gave her children, she was asked, Whether it could be thought that the great Squire \_\_\_\_\_'s son was to fare no better than a poor Scotch boy? The water indeed was used regularly for years together, but to little purpose; or, if at any time the sores assumed a promising appearance, its effects were speedily counteracted by his preposterous, I had almost said poisonous diet; for certainly it operated as a slow poison. In short, after crippling about in cloth shoes, or not most slowly riding a mile or two a-day, in fine weather, on a little Shetland poney, the patient finally sank, I know not whether to say under his diet or his disease; for the last night, in all probability, have been removed by the water, combined with a plentiful and nourishing, but plain and simple diet. He died at Moffat in 1773, much regretted by all who knew him, as an amiable, affable, and, for his years, a remarkably intelligent and ingenious young gentleman.

About the time (1768) when the preceding patient arrived at Moffat, a poor weaver came there from Aberdeen, with his son who might be about 16 years of age, and had served some time as an apprentice to a shoe-maker. The lad was so deplorably afflicted with running sores, that he could neither walk, ride, nor bear the motion of a wheel-carriage, for a journey of above 170 miles; but was brought to Moffat on a horse-litter, such as is used at funerals in mountainous districts, instead of a hearse. This mode of conveyance was necessarily attended with considerable expense, which was chiefly defrayed by a mason lodge at Aberdeen,—whether it was the lodge which Professor Robison tells us was honoured with a deputation from the political theorists in Germany, we shall not inquire. At Moffat, the father's labour as a journeyman weaver, and the occasional assistance of charitable people, were his only resources for supporting himself and his afflicted son; so that the diet of the latter

*Infirmis capiti fluit utilis,  
utilis alvo. (d,)*

The

ter could not be too luxurious or abundant, or indeed, as one might suppose, sufficient to supply the craving appetite often observed in scrophulous patients, and produced no doubt, by the constant discharge from their sores. But neither did this diet obstruct the effects of the water, which, like most other poor patients, he used very profusely, even dressing his victuals with it (though boiling weakens or destroys its virtues) and applying it externally and internally, in all possible ways. At this distance of time, I can give no account of the progress of his cure; nor is this necessary. It is sufficient to state, that in about three years, the disease was subdued. I think he worked at his trade, some time before he left Moffat. Certain it is, that he walked home to Aberdeen, a stout, healthy young man; and from his never returning, it is natural to conclude, that his cure was complete.——When at Aberdeen, as I was twice in 1792, promoting petitions from that city and its colleges to Parliament, for the Abolition of the African Slave-trade, and collecting evidence for its support, I inquired particularly for William and James ——; but could hear no tidings of either. I wished to see the father (William) whose virtues I had admired in my youth, and the son as a signal instance of the efficacy of the Moffat sulphureous water. William was a burgher seceder from the Church of Scotland, but of a cheerful disposition, and intirely free from that uncharitable, pharisaical spirit, with which too many seceders were, at that time, infected. I had often occasion to call at his humble apartment, and never without advantage: he gave me much good advice, and "I have found him kneeling at the side of his son's bed, to which he was for a considerable time confined, weeping and praying over his poor boy, in a manner which made me feel how much better it was "to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting."

These two cases may serve as specimens of the effects of high, and of low or moderate living, during a course of the sulphureous water of Moffat. Numbers of cases are known to every old inhabitant of the place; and our learned author, with Dr Johnston's help, would probably have given a few of them, if their insertion would not have carried him too far out of his way, in his "Tour in Scotland," from which work the present tract has been detached and published separately. Such cases no doubt, come best from the faculty; but the symptoms of the diseases which generally bring patients to Moffat, are so obvious to common observation, that the facts might be safely taken from plain, honest people about the place. *Editor.*

(d) That is, "This water is useful in diseases of the head and bowels."——A sentence still more applicable to Hartfell Spaw than to the

The water has a strong smell resembling bilge water, or the scourings of a foul gun, like the sulphureous waters of Harrogate, though not quite so strong. It has a slight saline taste, and sparkles considerably when first taken from the spring, particularly when poured out of one glass into another. The sides of the well are lined with a whitish crust, and when the water has been suffered to stand for some days without pumping, it becomes covered with a white film. Both these, when dried, burn with a bluish flame and suffocating smell, which indicate their being sulphur.

On the ninth of October, when the temperature of the air was 54°, and that of the adjoining brook 48°, the temperature of the spaw was 50°.

The next day, when the temperature of the air was 60°, that of the spaw was 49°.

The following *Experiments* were made on the water taken from this well, with the view of ascertaining the nature of its contents.

1. Characters written on paper with *acetite of lead*, were rendered visible on being immersed in the water. The colour was at first brown, and on remaining longer, quite black.
2. A solution of *acetite of lead* in distilled water, dropped into the water, caused a copious brown precipitate,
3. Tincture of galls produced no change.
4. Lime-water produced a very slight turbidness.
5. Tincture of turpsole produced scarcely any sensible redness.

6.

---

the sulphureous water of Moffat.——The following lines, on the bleak situation of Moffat sulphureous well, were said to have been written by Mr. Home, the author of the *Tragedy of Douglas*, whom I remember to have seen at Moffat, above fifty years ago. *Editor:*

“No grace did Nature here bestow;  
But wise was Nature’s aim:  
She bade the healing waters flow,  
And straight the Graces came.”

6. Acid of sugar produced no change.
7. Muriat of barytes produced no effect.
8. Nitrat of Silver caused a white cloudy appearance, with a copious precipitate.
9. When the water had been boiled for a few minutes, it was not changed by any of these precipitants, except the nitrat of silver.

From the first and second of these experiments, it appears that the water is impregnated with sulphurated hydrogen gas; the third shows that it contains no iron; the fourth and fifth indicate but a small quantity of carbonic acid. From the sixth it appears to contain no lime, and from the seventh no sulphuric acid. The eight, however, discovers the muriatic acid, which we shall afterwards find is combined with soda.

10. By means of the pneumatic apparatus, which I described in a treatise I published some years since, on the Crescent water at Harrogate, nineteen cubic inches of permanently elastic fluid were procured from a wine gallon of the Moffat water, of which four were azotic gas, five carbonic acid gas, and ten sulphurated hydrogen gas.
11. A wine gallon of this water was evaporated very slowly to dryness, and 36 grains of *muriat of soda* (common salt (c)) were obtained, some of the crystals of which were very distinct.

Hence it may be concluded, that a wine gallon of the sulphureous water at Moffat contains,

Of muriat of soda	- - - - -	36	grains.
Sulphurated hydrogen gas	- - - - -	10	} cubic inches.
Azotic gas	- - - - -	4	
Carbonic acid gas	- - - - -	5	

This water will not keep, for though closely corked up in bottles, in the course of two or three days it is found

---

(c) The Moffat water has an advantage over some other sulphureous waters, in containing so little salt, that it does not in general act on the bowels. If that effect is desired, the patient has only to dissolve in it a sufficient quantity of common salt, or of Epsom salts. *Ed.*

found to have lost the whole of its sulphureous smell; it should therefore be used as soon after it is taken from the well as possible.

THE next water which I examined, was the *Hartfell span*, which springs from the base of a high\* mountain of that name, and is nearly five miles distant from Moffat. It is found at the bottom of a deep and narrow ravine, or linn, the sides of which are entirely laid bare to the very top, and form a very interesting object to the mineralogist, as all the different strata can be distinctly seen. These strata dip towards the bottom of the mountain, and are inclined to the horizon in an angle of about fifteen degrees.

The lower stratum is a black soft rock, which easily crumbles to pieces, and consists of clay, with great quantities of sulphuret of iron, and sulphuret of alumin; immediately above this stratum, which is several feet in thickness, lies another, consisting chiefly of argillaceous ironstone; above this, is another stratum of blackish shale, resembling the lowest; and above this, another of argillaceous ironstone of a fine deep red. The ascent up this ravine is very difficult; a small brook tumbles down it, forming some pretty cascades; and very near the foot of the linn is the mineral water, which seems to originate from water filtering through and dissolving the sulphats of iron and alumin of the rock, and in consequence of this, it is, contrary to most mineral waters, strongest after rains. The whole brook deposits an ochre, or oxid of iron, which colours the rocky channel to a considerable distance. Among the the rocks above the spring, I found some beautiful specimens of *alumen plumosum*, and a few green crystals of sulphat of iron.

In these schistous strata, the sulphurets are decomposed by the action of the air, and the contact of water; the

---

\* The summit of Hartfell, according to the measurement of The Rev. Dr. Walker, is about 3,000 feet above the village of Moffat, or 3,300 feet above the level of the sea.

the sulphur is converted into sulphuric acid, which combining with the iron and alumine, form the sulphats; these being soluble in water, are washed away, filter among the crevices, and issue in the form of a spring, which is covered with a small building.

Some shafts have been opened in this glen, probably with the hopes of finding lead or copper; about a quarter of a mile below the well, a shaft of considerable extent has been opened, in which are appearances of copper, though I have not heard that any considerable quantity of metal was found. It is, however, very reasonable to suppose, from the appearances of those hills, that they are rich in metallic veins.

The latter part of the road from Moffat to the Hartfell Spaw, is very bad, and almost impassible even for a foot passenger.

This well was discovered in the year 1748, by John Williamson, (*f.*) an eccentric but benevolent character.

(*f*) I well remember Mr. John Williamson, and had that sort of knowledge of him which a school-boy may be supposed to have of a very aged man. He was commonly called Hole John, from the name of his farm; and had been a considerable "store-master," as the sheep-farmers are termed among the mountains about Moffat. In early life, he was fond of shooting; but, having miserably disabled some poor animal which escaped from him with life, only to suffer a slow, lingering death, he began to inquire how far it was lawful for man to subject the creatures of God to such extreme sufferings, for what he thought proper to call his "*Sport*." The result of this inquiry was not a vague, barren opinion, but a firm practical conviction, that the Creator had invested man with no such power, but had constituted him the limited ruler, not the cruel destroyer, of the inferior creatures. In conformity with this principle, or from his supposed belief in the transmigration of souls, Mr. Williamson, for the last forty or fifty years of his life, wholly abstained from the flesh of animals: I have been lately assured, however, that he occasionally used milk, cheese, butter, and eggs. But his humanity was not exclusively confined to the inferior animals. He was zealous and active in relieving human sufferers; and particularly in procuring assistance to those poor persons who resorted to Moffat for the benefit of the waters;—for his own means were quite inadequate to the extent of his benevolence. With the exception, indeed, of a trifling annuity,

character. He believed in the Pythagorean doctrine of the *metempsychosis*, or transmigration of the soul into the bodies of different animals; on this account he never tasted animal food for the last forty years of his life; nor would he suffer the smallest insect to be killed if he could prevent it.

He was buried in the old church-yard of Moffat, and by particular request, at as great a distance as possible from any other grave. A monument, in the form of an obelisk, was placed over his grave, by his friend and patron Sir George Clerk Maxwell; from the different sides of which I copied the following inscription:

*On the West Side.*  
Sacred  
To the Memory  
of  
JOHN WILLIAMSON,  
who died  
M.DCC.LXIX.

*On the East Side.*  
Protector  
of  
All the Animal  
Creation.

*On*

---

annuity, I never heard of any property that he possessed. But he had an ample resource in the friendship of that respectable patriot the late Sir George Clerk Maxwell, at whose country house he resided, and at whose table he sat, for many years previous to his death, which took place in 1769, at the reputed age of 90 years.

Mr. Williamson's person did not discredit his diet; for he was, or had been an athletic man, tall and erect, and somewhat inclined to corpulency. His conversation was grave and impressive; but being of a very independent spirit, those who rashly attacked any of his peculiar opinions, were sure to smart under the lash of his sarcasm. Upon the whole, Mr. Boswell's interesting account of Dr. Johnson forcibly reminds me of what I knew and heard of John Williamson.

*Editor.*

*On the North Side.*

The Discoverer  
of  
Hartfell Spaw  
M.DCC.XLVIII.

---

*On the South Side.*

His Life  
was spent in  
relieving  
The Distressed.

Erected by his friends. M.DCC.LXXV.

THE water is perfectly clear when taken from the well, but gradually deposits, even though sealed up, a little oxid of iron, in the form of a fine impalpable sediment. It has a strong astringent taste like ink.

THE following is the result of the *Experiments* which I made with the Hartfell Spaw water.

1. Tincture of galls dropped into it, produced a colour nearly as black as ink, and this colour was as deep when the experiment was made after the water had been boiled, as it was before, which shows that the iron is not suspended by the carbonic, but by a fixed acid.
2. Muriat of barytes produced a white cloud, and a copious sediment.
3. Acid of sugar produced no change.
4. Acetite of lead produced a slight turbidness, with a white precipitate.
5. Tincture of turnsole was rendered a little red.
6. Lime water produced a slight turbidness, with some precipitate of alumin.
7. By means of the machine, only five cubic inches of gas were expelled from a wine gallon of the water, which was chiefly azotic gas.
8. A wine gallon of the Hartfell water was made to boil gently ; it soon become turbid, and deposited

a brown powder, after which it was perfectly clear. The powder was collected by filtration, and found to weigh fifteen grains; it was of a yellowish colour, but changed to a beautiful red on exposure to a considerable heat. It was found to be oxid of iron.

The clear liquor was evaporated very gently to dryness, and the saline matter procured in this manner, weighed 96 grains.

This was found to consist of sulphat of iron (sal martis,) and sulphat of alumin (alum.) In order to discover the respective quantities of each of these salts, the whole was dissolved in water, and the iron precipitated by tincture of galls. When this was separated, a solution of salt of tartar (carbonate of pot-ash) was added, which precipitated the alumin in a carbonated state, and from the quantity of carbonate of alumin, it was easy to calculate the sulphat of alumin, which I found to be twelve grains; the quantity of sulphat of iron must therefore be 84 grains.

This water tastes much stronger after it has stood for two or three days, even in an open vessel, though it is in fact weaker, because it has lost part of its iron by standing. The sulphuric acid losing part of its iron, its taste becomes more sensible, and the water approaches nearer to a solution of sal martis.

From the preceding experiments, it appears that a wine gallon of the Hartfell water contains,

Of sulphat of iron - - - 84 grains.

Sulphat of alumin - - - 12 ditto.

Azotic gas - - - - 5 cubic inches.

Together with 15 grains of oxid of iron, with which the sulphuric acid seems to be supersaturated, and which it gradually deposits on exposure to the air, and almost immediately when boiled.

As the principal mineralizers of this water are the sulphats of iron and alumin, it is evident that, if well corked, it will keep for months, and perhaps years, unimpaired

unimpaired in its qualities ; hence it may be carried to a distance better than most mineral waters, and its good effects need not be confined to Scotland, or even to Britain. When Dr JOHNSTON had the care of it, he sent it to many towns in England, and to the West Indies ; but it is now in hands that render it of little benefit to the public. (g.) As it keeps so well, it is not necessary to drink it on the spot, which would be very inconvenient, but it may be procured in Moffat in a fresh state. It very much resembles the water of the Horley Green Spaw near Halifax, of which I published an analysis in 1790 ; only the Horley Green water is considerably stronger.

*New Chalybeate Spring.* WHILE rambling about Moffat, I observed a spring near the farther Annan bridge, at the end of the town, beyond the manse, on the Dumfries-road, which appeared to be a chalybeate. On tasting it, I found it strongly resembled the chalybeates at High Harrogate ; I therefore made some ex-  
B
periments

---

(g) Dr. Johnston himself, though he was very careful in taking up and bottling the water, was at too little pains and expense in endeavouring to make its virtues generally known. In 1789 or 1790, he wrote to desire that I would call on Mr. Owen, a dealer in mineral waters, near Temple Bar, London, to whom he had sent for sale a quantity of the Hartfell Spaw water. I did so, and was told by Mr. Owen, that he had sold very little of it ; because he could give no account of it, but the too general one, that it was a chalybeate water from Scotland. I therefore strongly advised the Doctor to print a cheap edition of Dr. Horsburgh's "Experiments and Observations on the Hartfell Spaw"; adding a few of the more striking cases which had occurred in his own long practice; and to give a copy of the pamphlet to every one who purchased a certain quantity of the water. But the Doctor did not follow my advice ; probably because he did not feel that kind of interest in it which would have justified his going to any considerable expense in this, or any other mode of advertising it. In a prudential view, the Doctor was in the right ; for, on some unworthy political account, he was soon afterwards obliged to resign the key of the well.

*Editor.*

periments with it, of which the following are the results:

1. Tincture of galls produced a beautiful purple colour, but not after the water had been boiled.
2. Lime water produced a slight cloud.
3. Muriat of barytes caused no change.
4. Acid of sugar produced no effect.
5. Tincture of turnsole caused a slight redness.
6. Acetite of lead produced no effect.

These experiments convinced me of its resemblance to the Harrogate chalybeates, in which the iron is suspended by carbonic acid, as is evidently the case here.

I next expelled the gas by means of the machine, which amounted to 17 cubic inches, of which 13 were carbonic acid gas, and 3 azotic gas.

A wine gallon of the water was next made to boil gently for a quarter of an hour, during which time it deposited a quantity of yellow sediment, which, being collected by filtration, weighed two grains, and was evidently oxid of iron. The clear liquor which remained after filtration, was not affected by any of the above tests.

Hence a wine gallon of this water contains.

Of oxid of iron	-	-	-	-	2 grains.
Carbonic acid gas	-	-	-	-	13 cubic inches.
Azotic gas	-	-	-	-	3 ditto

The quantities of iron and carbonic acid, which, are the only substances of any consequence, are very nearly equal to those in the chalybeates of Harrogate. From this circumstance it cannot be doubted, that if this well were properly inclosed, which I was promised should be done (*h*,) it would be a valuable addition to Moffat.

It

(*h*) The effectual inclosure of the well discovered by Dr. Garnett, if at all practicable, would be extremely difficult, as it is situated on the sandy bank of Annan, which there and for several miles, runs through

It would agree with many constitutions in which the Hartfell water is improper, on account of its too great astringency and tonic power; and its vicinity to Moffat is a great advantage, as it can be drunk on the spot by those who resort to this watering place.

*Dr Johnston on the Moffat Waters.* HAVING finished what observations I had to make on the chemical properties of the mineral waters in the neighbourhood of Moffat, I shall beg leave to lay before my readers an account of their medicinal virtues, which was communicated to me by Dr. JOHNSTON, a judicious physician, who has practised at Moffat more than thirty years, and who is consequently well qualified to give information on this head.

“ The water, which has been used as a medicine for the greatest length of time, is what is generally called the *Moffat Well*, or *Sulphur Water*, which has been a place of resort for invalids for more than 150 years, and will continue to be so, not only from its medicinal powers, but also from the very dry, healthy, and romantic situation of Moffat. We have different traditions respecting its discovery, which are of little consequence, but I have reason to believe that it was first

---

through a bed of gravel, so small and loose, that it cannot confine the stream, which is continually changing its channel, to the great detriment of the adjoining fields; so that the first great flood would, in all probability, sweep away the inclosure, and bury the spring under a heap of sand.—Accordingly, since writing this sentence, I have visited the spot, but cannot find a trace of the spring.—It is probable, however, that water of similar properties might be discovered, in some better situation in the vicinity: For, about 30 years ago, one Robert Graham used to bring to Moffat for sale, a chalybeate water acknowledged by all to be at least equal to Hartfell Spaw, and some alleged that it was considerably superior. As it was his interest to conceal the spring, he always went to it in the night, and brought home as much water as his horse could carry. Graham has since died, without communicating to any one the situation of this valuable spring.

Editor.

first ordered to be cleared out by a lady of the name of WHITEFORD, who married a gentleman in this neighbourhood, and who had been cured of some complaint by this water after having ineffectually tried others. The first notice of it in print that I know of, was by MATTHEW MAC KAIE\* of Edinburgh, who gave a chemical and medicinal account of it in 1659, and mentions its having been discovered some years before. Mr MILLIGAN, a surgeon here about fifty years ago, gave an account of it, which may be seen in the Edinburgh Medical Essays.

“ Its effects have long been noticed in scrophulous, and herpetic or scorbutic cases. In scrophula, its good effects are very observable, either when the glands or the bones are affected. If used in an early stage, before humour is formed in the glands, it most commonly discusses the swelling; and if the humour be formed, it promotes suppuration; so that, taken in the stage in which the constitution is not much affected, it seldom fails to make a cure. When the bones are affected the cure is more obstinate, though its effects in promoting the exfoliation of carious bones seem considerable. I have seen some instances of whole bones being cast off piece by piece. We have had many instances of white swellings of the knee being cured, if taken before the bones were much corroded or enlarged, and even afterwards, attended with great exfoliations. I saw one instance lately in this neighbourhood, where a number of pieces of bone were cast off, and though the joint remain stiff, the man is able to follow a laborious employment.

“ In most kinds of what is generally called scurvy, whether in the form of herpetic eruptions, or cutaneous  
ulcers

---

\* This author is, mentioned by the name of *D. Matthæus Mac-KAIL*, *Pharmacopæus insignis*, in the *Nuncius Scoto-Britannicus*, per *Robertum Sibbaldum*, *Fq. Auvat.* M. D. &c. *Edin.* 1683, fol. In Cap. 10. (*De Aquis Medicatis*) Sir Robert describes the Moffat Sulphureous Well. Sir Robert Sibbald was one of the earliest members of the Royal Society of London.

ulcers, or periodical erysipelatous eruptions, pimples in the face, or inflammations of the eyes, the salutary effects of this water have long been experienced. Since the time of its discovery, it has been so noted for the cure of these diseases, as to deter others, labouring under other complaints in which it might have been equally beneficial, from visiting Moffat, because they dreaded the stigma generally affixed to persons resorting to this place. But this prejudice has long been got the better of, and these kinds of patients now make only a small portion of our visitants.

“ It has been successfully used in rheumatic cases, even where the limbs are stiffened and contracted. I have seen several instances of gentlemen from the East and West Indies, with liver complaints, who have attributed their cure to the use of it. It acts very powerfully as a diuretic, by which quality it clears the ureters, forces off gravel, and even substances of considerable size from the bladder. I have some in my possession nearly the size of a field bean, which were forced down the urethra. It is not long since its use in bilious complaints began to be known. These complaints are sometimes constitutional, but are most commonly the result of intemperance, or a sedentary life: the common symptoms are colics, vomitings, want of appetite, indigestion, costiveness, flatulency, and heartburn. When properly administered, this water not only alleviates, but frequently removes these symptoms. It is equally efficacious where there is a deficiency in any of the natural secretions, and in some cases where the constitution is greatly reduced, either from an original fault or lingering illness. We must, however, except consumptive complaints, in which the symptoms seem generally to be aggravated during a residence here.

“ The water is so gentle in its operation, that the most delicate may use it with safety and benefit.

“ I fear I shall scarcely be credited, when I assert as a fact, that a man drank in one morning sixteen

Scots pints\* of it, without any other inconvenience than a little giddiness. I have known persons for months together drink from five to eight bottles of it every morning: indeed it is very common among the lower class to drink from three to six bottles, and I do not recollect that any have materially suffered by it. The quantity usually prescribed, is from one to three bottles drank in the morning at the well.

“ Besides the benefit derived from drinking the sulphureous water, the bath has its share of merit. In many cases I have seen the warm bath highly useful; the mineral seems to be absorbed, it being a fact well known, that not only the clothes, but the breath of those who bathe, have the sulphureous odour of the water. It should be used as a warm bath in all cases where there are ulcers or eruptions of any kind, whether scrophulous or scorbutic; and in cases of chronic rheumatism and paralysis. Every house has conveniencies for bathing, on very reasonable terms.

“ THE *Hartfell water* is a very powerful chalybeate, and requires particular attention, as well as judgment in taking it up: it often happens, that for many months together it cannot be got in perfection, being only good after rain, and best of all when heavy rains have succeeded dry weather. Owing to these and other particular circumstances, this water has never obtained that celebrity to which it is justly entitled. Immediately after it was discovered, Dr HORSBURGH made some experiments with it, and published a few cases in which it had been used with success. His paper is inserted in the first volume of the *Edinburgh Essays and Observations, Physical and Literary*†.

“ As

---

\* A Scots pint is about two English quarts.

† Dr. Horsburgh also published in 1754, “Experiments and Observations on the Hartfell Spaw;” with the histories of 27 cases in which it had been successful, attested by Dr. Austin of Edinburgh, Dr. Hunter of Moffat, and other physicians. Dr. Horsburgh collected

“As it is a very powerful tonic, we should expect that it would be useful in diseases of weakness. I have likewise known many instances of its particular good effects in coughs proceeding from phlegm, spitting of blood, and sweatings\*; in stomach complaints, attended with head-aches, giddiness, heart-burn, vomiting, indigestion, flatulency, and habitual costiveness; in gouty complaints, affecting the stomach and bowels; in obstructions, and diseases peculiar to the female sex. It has likewise been used externally with great advantage in tetterous eruptions, and old obstinate ulcers.

“As the water is very powerful, it is generally drunk in small quantities, seldom exceeding an English pint a-day, though in some cases I have prescribed twice that quantity. A few years ago a gentleman from England, afflicted with very bad stomach complaints, after trying a variety of mineral waters without advantage, came to make trial of the Hartfell spaw, and for six weeks drank a Scotch pint of it daily, which completely cured him. As this is much more than the quantity that patients can generally bear, it should be observed, that he had been in the habit, for years before, of drinking mineral waters freely.

“With respect to the new chalybeate, on which you made some experiments, I can as yet say little; but

lected those cases at Moffat, “while using the sulphureous water for the recovery of his health,” and read them before the Physical and Literary Society of Edinburgh. *Editor.*

\* “We find in the *Essays Physical and Literary of Edinburgh* (vol. I, art. 12, p. 364) two well vouched histories of patients far gone in consumptions, with the usual symptoms of pain in the breast, cough, gross spitting of fetid matter, difficulty of breathing, hectic fits, and morning sweats, perfectly cured in a few weeks, by the use of the Hartfell Spaw, near Moffat; which, contrary to what is observed in most natural chalybeate waters, contains a fixed vitriol of iron.” Account of an Experiment, by which it appears that Salt of Steel does not enter the Lacteal Vessels, by Edw. Wright M. D. in the *Phil. Trans.* for 1758, p. 600.

but from its nature, it must be a very valuable acquisition to Moffat, and will, I think, answer in some cases where the other waters will not."

*The Beld Craig.* THERE are many pleasant rides about Moffat, and some scenes in the neighbourhood by no means destitute of beauty and sublimity, which are frequently visited by the company; among these may be mentioned the *Belle Craig*, situated at a short distance from the Carlisle road; a romantic and sequestered spot, which will scarcely fail to repay the trouble of a visit.

Leaving Moffat early one fine morning, we took the Carlisle road, and at the distance of about a mile and half from the village, passed Dumcrieff, the property of Dr. CURRIE of Liverpool,\* delightfully situated and surrounded by extensive plantations. The river Moffat runs through the midst of the grounds, and a branch of it being separated to turn a mill, insulates the garden. Proceeding along the Carlisle road, about a mile and half beyond Dumcrieff, we observed the conflux of three rivers, the Moffat, the Annan, and the Avon. These united streams take the name of Annan, though before their junction, the Annan was the least of the three. As we proceeded, the extensive valley, flat, and even like a lake, surrounded by hills, with the beautiful river meandering through it, attracted our attention. Indeed, the most superficial observer must be convinced, that this valley has formerly been covered with water, which having gradually worn down the natural dam or boundary at its lower part, has subsided and retired to its present course. This natural dam is very visible from a small bridge in the road, a little beyond the third milestone; the mound has evidently the appearance of having been worn away in the middle, and forms a scene by no means unpicturesque.

About

---

\* Now (1820) the property of Dr. Rogerson, formerly of Peterburgh.

About two hundred yards beyond the third milestone we left the high road, and ascended a kind of path on the right, which conducted us over a hill to the entrance of a glen skirted with wood. Through this wood we descended by a path not very distinct, to a little brook, which we crossed, and proceeded along a road by the side of another small brook : at this place the glen begins to contract, and its steep sides are covered with wood to the very top : on walking about a hundred yards, we came to a scene highly picturesque. On our right, a fine rugged rock, crowned with oaks, and whose face was covered with a lichen of a beautiful whiteness, mixed with heath and shrubs, rises perpendicular from the bottom of the glen, and threatens destruction to those who venture near its base. The remainder of the contracted view towards the left is bounded by a concave precipice, almost covered with wood, there being only a few places where the bare rock overlooks the shrubs and trees. In one place a small but beautiful cascade descends from the top of a rock on the left, to join the brook below.

It is the white rock on the right, that rears its venerable front so high, which is called the Belle Craig, and which, I suppose, means bald rock, *beld craig* being the provincial appellation for a bald rock. Some have supposed that the picturesque beauty of this rock acquired it the name of Belle Craig.

When we had passed this beautiful and sequestered scene, the glen contracted very fast, its high perpendicular walls approaching nearer and nearer, till they were only a few feet asunder ; here we had another view of the cascade which has been mentioned, and which appears to consist of several different parts, its stream being here and there hid from the eye by shrubs. On going a little farther, the valley became so narrow, that there was scarcely room for a foot-path between the perpendicular rock and the brook. It soon afterwards widens a little, and on the left hand

is to be seen a little projecting rock, from which water is continually dripping. This little weeping rock, which is a humble miniature resemblance of that at Knaresborough in Yorkshire, is by no means destitute of beauty, and the drops form a vivid and beautiful rainbow, if properly viewed when the sun shines. We next descended a few rude steps hewn out of the rock, and soon came to the boundary, where the brook fills up the whole width of the glen. This is generally the *ne plus ultra* of the visitants, it being difficult to proceed farther; but those who do not fear being wet, go up the brook, which has worn a deep channel in the rock, down which it tumbles, forming a very fine cascade.

It was once the intention of some gentlemen fond of picturesque scenery, to have conducted the brook over the top of the rock, nearly opposite to the stone steps just mentioned, which would have had a very fine effect. This romantic little spot bears a great resemblance to Hackfall, near Ripon, in Yorkshire.

In the vicinity of Moffat is a very fine cascade, frequently visited by the company, called the *Grey Mare's Tail*.

To see this cascade we went nearly half a mile from Moffat, on the Carlisle road, and then turning to the left, ascended a hill, called Craigyhill, which is part of Dr Currie's [now Dr Rogerson's] estate, and from which we had a fine view of the venerable woods of Dumcrieff. Following the road to Selkirk, we crossed a small impetuous brook, with a very rocky channel, called Craigy-burn, and soon entered a fine glen, beautifully wooded. This wood, which consists chiefly of hazel and birch, is called Craigy-burn-wood. In the midst of a flat and fertile but narrow vale, the Moffat winds its serpentine course. The other side of the river was formerly wooded, which, no doubt, added much to the beauty of the scenery; but the wood having been cut down, and no attention afterwards paid

paid to it by the owner, this ornament of the country is lost.

When we had passed Craigy-burn-wood, we had a full view of the romantic glen, bounded by lofty hills, frowning like the surly centinels of the legion posted behind them. A ride more romantic than this, on a fine day, can scarcely be imagined. After riding by the side of the Moffat about seven miles, we crossed it, and ascending the hill on the other side, had a full view of the cascade we were in search of. Here the water precipitating itself from rock to rock, dashing, foaming, and thundering from a great height, (i) between two steep hills, falls into a dark pool, from whence it runs with less impetuosity to augment the waters of the Moffat, which it joins a little above the place where we crossed the stream. The water, by its precipitous fall, is broken by the air, so as to appear as white as snow.

The water which forms this cascade runs from a lake on the top of the hill, about three quarters of a mile distant from the highest part of the fall. This lake, which is called *Loch Skene*, is 1,100 yards in length, and about 400 in breadth\*; there is a little rocky island where eagles bring out their young in great safety, as the water is deep, and there is no boat on the lake. The water of this lake abounds with very fine trout.

(i) The water-fall, called the Grey-mare's-tail, is scarcely ever less than 70 feet high, but when heavy rains have swollen the brook, so as to give its waters "initial velocity" sufficient to project them over the rocks mentioned in the text, the whole height is reckoned to exceed 100 feet

*Editor.*

\* Consequently its area is about 90 English acres.

## ADDITIONS.

*Milligen on Moffat Well.* After the printer had sent, the foregoing pages to me, here at Moffat, for correction, I had an opportunity of perusing "An account of the Mineral Waters near Moffat, by Mr George Milligen, Surgeon at Moffat." This is the half-title, to which the words "for many years" have been added with a pen; for the copy before me wants the title-page; but, by a manuscript note, the pamphlet, which consists of 15 pages 8vo, appears to have been printed in 1746.

In this little scarce tract, I find nothing considerable that has not been stated above by Dr. Garnett, or Dr Johnston;—except that the author observes, that the Moffat sulphur water "is with justice famous for curing barrenness, which it has frequently done to such as were in despair of having children." The last paragraph is also worthy of attention. "To conclude all," says Mr Milligen, "I can assure you, that I have never once seen this mineral water fail to cure the scrophulous, when they were able, or fit to use it; that is when the constitution was not quite decayed, or when they were free from the diseases that forbid its use, and when willing to allow it a sufficient time; and that is only a few seasons." The diseases he alludes to, are those of the lungs; for he had before observed, that "the water is not to be drunk while the patient has a cough, even though a slight one; for it seldom fails to increase and bind it."

---

*Auchancas.* The following note was written by Lieut. General Johnston, the late respectable proprietor of Corehead and Auchancas, on a copy of Dr. Garnett's Observations; and I give it a place here, because it exactly corresponds with what is stated by Mr Milligen, and gives the names both of persons and places, which he omits. If this note had come earlier to my hand, it should have been inserted at the name

*Whiteford,*

*Whiteford*, page 24, above. It is in these words: "Rachel Whiteford, daughter of Dr. Whiteford, Bishop of Buchan. This lady married, in 1633, James Johnston of Loch-house, and brought into her husband's family the estates of Corehead and Auchancas, the residence of Randolph, Earl of Murray, of Scotland." The blank should be filled up with the word "Regent;" for, according to Ridpath's *Border History*, page 274, the only authority I have now at hand, the brave Scottish general, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Murray, was appointed Regent, in 1318, during the minority of David I. the immediate successor of his father Robert the Bruce\*.

Auchancas, the ruins of which are somewhat more than two miles from Moffat, has evidently been a place of considerable strength. It was a regular quadrangle, with a tower at each of the four angles, and surrounded with a wet ditch. One of the towers still remains, and is believed to have lost but little of its original height, which appears to have been about twenty five feet†. It is round, the form which preceded the introduction of angular bastions. Its inside diameter is six feet, the walls are four feet thick and consequently its outside diameter is fourteen feet. A part of each of the two adjoining curtains is also standing; about ten feet thick, of solid, though coarse, masonry, composed chiefly of undressed whin-stones, some of them very large; and rising to the height of ten feet above the present rubbish. The only gate, which was about ten feet wide, passed through the middle of the north curtain, and was no doubt furnished with a draw-bridge; and, thro' a conduit under the middle of the eastern curtain, the water of the ditch supplied a

C

well

---

\* In antiquarian strictness, this venerable name is Robert *de Brus*—But, as I am not a professed antiquary, I'll e'en let it stand as it is commonly written and pronounced—Robert *the Bruce*.

† This and the other dimensions of Auchancas, were communicated to me by Mr. Joseph Udney, well known in this and several other parts of Scotland, as a skilful and accurate land-surveyor.

well within, for the use of the garrison. The ditch itself was supplied by a copious spring, about 300 yards from the north-west angle, through a leaden pipe of seven inches diameter, which has been taken up, from time to time, for the sake of the lead. A portion of it, eight feet long, was dug up about fourteen years ago, from the foundation of one of a number of large buildings, about mid-way between the spring and the castle. In those buildings, the possessor and his retainers probably resided, and retired into the castle only in cases of emergency ; for there is not a vestige of any stone building within the castle itself. The works of the castle occupy about a Scots acre and one fifth, equal to an English acre and a half, of which the central area is nearly three tenths. Upon the whole, the hoary remains of Auchanecas are highly worthy of attention ; and I know not how it happened that Dr. Garnett took no notice of them. There are in the vicinity of Moffat several other works, both Roman and British, which may prove not uninteresting to the lovers of antiquities.

---

*Moffat misrepresented.* As Moffat stands on the point of intersection of the two great roads which convey the mails from Edinburgh to Port Patrick, and from Glasgow to London, it is a place very generally known. I am not sure, therefore, whether it be worth while to take notice of some gross misrepresentations of it which appeared in Sir Richard Phillips's Monthly Magazine for April last (1820). At page 218. of that miscellany, is inserted a continuation of "Notes made during a Journey from London to Holkham, York, Edinburgh, and the Highlands of Scotland, in July and August 1819, &c.

"One mile," says the author, page 220, "before we arrived at Moffat, that town and its neighbourhood were seen to great advantage. There are several neat looking villas ; but the access to them ought not to be endured ;

endured; as they cannot be approached without passing by a public necessary in the market-place. That building is of an octagonal shape, with eight apertures (door-ways) but without doors; and so filthy, that no cleanly person can go within ten or twenty yards of it. There is only one inn, which is a good house, but badly conducted. This small town is handsome, but its thriving is repressed by the inn-keeper, and the public necessary (not privy)."——"The inn at Douglas-Mill is unpromising, but good; those at Elfeet (Elvanfoot), Moffat, and Lockerby, are very ordinary make-shifts; but that at Annan is unexceptionably good."

I have purposely suppressed the author's name; as it is possible, that on due reflection, he may be ashamed of what has just been quoted, and may retract it; for "where there is shame, there may in time be virtue." It is indeed astonishing, that any man who values his character, should venture to put his name in print, to assertions so totally void of all truth, or semblance of truth. I was born, and passed the first twenty years of my life, in Moffat. I am now writing in what was lately the Spur inn, fronting the market-place, as this author calls what is commonly termed the High Street of Moffat; and I positively aver, without fear of contradiction from any creditable quarter, *first* that there is in Moffat *no* public necessary of any kind or shape whatever, and but too few private ones; *secondly*, that there is *no* polygonal building in that street, or any other in the place, except a hexagonal drawing-room, attached to the back of a dwelling house, and which cannot be seen or, without leave of the family, approached or entered from the High Street. Dr. Garnet says above, that the street in question is "very spacious," and he might have added, very clean, and very well built. This parade, as it may very properly be called, is in a great measure natural, the original convexity of the ground, like that of the beautiful natural causeway leading along the shore into Montrose, having

ing been but little helped by art ; and being composed of pure gravel, quickly absorbs the rain, and leaves the surface dry and agreeable under foot. One end of it, however, is a good deal disfigured by the neglected remains of a bowling green, which was formerly one of its principal ornaments ; for till within the last twenty years, the green, and its venerable yew hedge, were kept in excellent order. Nor is the street as yet much adorned, or the place much benefited, by a new market-house, which has been left unfinished ; but it may be hoped will not be ultimately neglected, and suffered to go to ruin. This however is too often the case in country towns, especially in Scotland ; where it is not uncommon for public buildings, not always excepting churches, and the walls of church-yards, to be erected, and *no person appointed to take care of them !* The consequence is, that in a few years they are dilapidated, or almost demolished by school-boys and idle apprentices. The cheap and easy remedy would be to build an adjoining cottage, as is often, or perhaps generally done in England, and to allow a poor family to inhabit it, on condition of their cleaning and preserving the principal building. *Thirdly ;* Instead of *one*, there are *three* inns in Moffat ; the large one, which had the misfortune to displease our author, and two on a smaller scale ; beside the large one, in which I now write, and which is at present let as a lodging house. It is no easy matter to please some travellers, especially such critical and fastidious ones as our author. But we may mention, that in December 1816, the Austrian Princes and their suites, who were then making a tour of the kingdom, dined, slept, and breakfasted in the King's Arms here, (which our author regards as a "very ordinary make-shift,") and expressed great satisfaction with their entertainment ; and that, on the 8th and 9th of January 1817, the Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia and his attendants, honoured the same inn with their presence ; and were so much pleased with the house and its landlord, Mr. Robinson, from England, that

Baron

Baron Nicolay, who seemed to make all the payments, presented him with double the amount of his bill ; observing, that it was the only inn, in any small town, in which they had all been accommodated with beds. The author acknowledges that it is "a good house." He might have called it the best built house of the kind, as well as one of the largest in any small town between Glasgow and London. Its front, like that of Lord Hopetoun's house, and some others in this place, is composed of the hardest blue granite, or whinstone, laid in regular courses, and is very generally admired. Dr. Johnson says, that nothing short of the perseverance of Aberdeen men, could bring the granite, of which that city is built, to any regular shape. What would he have said of the Moffat granite, which is by many degrees harder?

The gentleman takes no notice of the mineral waters here ; and indeed appears to have been in too great haste to take proper notice of any thing. By his own account, he travelled fifty miles on the day when he passed through Moffat. This rate of travelling, leisurely as it is, leaves too little time for inquiry, and for the accurate observation of the objects, especially of the towns, their adjacent *villas*, and the agriculture, to be met with on the road.

In my view, however, it is no small compensation for much negligent and slovenly description, that he has taken notice, though it cannot always be called *proper* notice, of that exposure of the *egesta humana* (the subject-matter need not be mentioned in plain English) which is but too common in the North. But if, instead of suffering his imagination to conjure up filthy, octagonal temples of Cloacina, where none such exist, or I may say ever existed, he had fairly and soberly stated the fact, he would have owned, that Moffat, as well as the handsome and finely situated county town of Dumfries, are more free from the nuisance alluded to, than almost any two towns in Scotland, or the north of England, or indeed any  
where

where else ; the new town of Edinburgh scarcely excepted. A little farther *fair* observation would probably have suggested *one* cause of that nuisance, namely, that in the first formation of many Scottish towns, the houses, probably to facilitate defense in former unhappy times, were too closely crowded together. Dumfries, for example, appears to be about twice as populous as the neat and clean town of Northampton\*, but I should think, occupies not half the ground. The old town of Edinburgh is perhaps the most crowded city in Europe ; and in all countries, the provincial towns imitate the capitals, even where the situations are, in most respects, different. In old Edinburgh, owing to the abruptness of the ground, and the prevailing desire to be near the castle, the buildings, though raised to a very inconvenient height, and inhabited by at least one family in every "flat" or story, have not a square foot of yard-room ; nor, if they had yards, could so many families make any proper use of them. And, if we add that the water, never too abundant, and sometimes scarce, is to be brought from wells supplied by pipes, distributed over the town, and carried up five, six, seven, or more pairs of (stone) stairs, no one will wonder at consequences, which all the exertions of the inhabitants, aided and directed by a vigilant and enlightened police, cannot altogether prevent. *Poor* people, so circumstanced, *cannot be* cleanly. My firm belief is, that if the inhabitants of some parts of *old* Edinburgh, could be exchanged for a colony of the most cleanly Dutch people, these last would find it impossible to practise their former commendable habits. Even London, clean as in general it is, hath its St. Giles's, Wapping, Spital Fields, &c. which

---

\* Compare the Statistical Account of Scotland, article *Dumfries*, with Dr. Price's *Annuities*. I have not either of those works at hand ; but I think that the population of Dumfries is stated at about 10,000, and that of Northampton at about 5000.

which are disgraced by many a narrow, dirty, ill paved and lighted street and alley. The poor inhabitants, though they labour not under all the disadvantages which we have mentioned, have not time, nor strength and spirits, (I mean animal, not ardent spirits) to keep their streets and lanes in order, nor money to pay for having it properly done.

These remarks are not meant as an apology, but as a fair statement of facts, which ought to accompany every accusation. Our author, though he has very shamefully failed in his attack on Moffat, is but too correct, on this disgusting subject, in speaking of some other towns in Scotland ; and which, of course, I must leave to defend themselves against his censure. But when censure is really merited, it ought not to be spared ; provided that no extenuating circumstance be omitted which ought in justice to be stated. And, on the whole, as the author's *infirmity* appears to partake more of the nature of precipitation than of deliberate and malicious falsehood, I am inclined to let him off with the foregoing moderate castigation. Certainly every liberal and enlightened man in this part of the island, is thankful to his countrymen for taking notice, in a mannerly way, of any wrong things they may observe in Scotland. For my own part, I hope that sensible, well informed English travellers will never discontinue their remarks on this country, even if they should be occasionally pointed with sarcasm, till nothing, in its nature corrigible, remains to be corrected. To the sarcastic remarks of honest Dr. Johnson, respecting the *denudation* of Scotland, our country probably owes whole forests of thriving trees.

The Scots, conscious of their own faults, are not so apt to indulge in sarcasm as some other nations. But their silent example has not been lost on their discerning and sensible neighbours. It has helped to open their eyes to the monstrous evils of their poor-laws, which, "had they prevailed in Hell, would have over-  
thrown

thrown the kingdom of Beelzebub\*." The unspeakable advantages of national education were also recommended by the example of the Scots ; not to mention certain other public concerns, both civil and ecclesiastical, which they have always managed better than the English. Each nation is happily qualified to improve and benefit the other ; and, from what we have already seen, it may be hoped, that their mutual action and re-action, will at last wear off all a-perities, and render both as perfect, or rather as free from gross defects, as human frailty will permit.

EDITOR.

*Moffat, 17th June 1820.*

---

\* Sir Jo'n Davies, Queen Elizabeth's Attorney-General for Ireland, used this strong language, when speaking of some barbarous old customs.

994 - c







































MEDICINE

CT 50

1820-9

GLASGOW  
UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY

